AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A variable-nozzle mechanism of an exhaust turbocharger in which ~~the~~ a driving force of an actuator is transmitted to nozzle vanes supported for rotation by a nozzle mount to vary ~~the~~ an angle of a blade of the nozzle vanes, wherein the variable-nozzle mechanism is ~~composed~~ arranged such that a nozzle plate ~~of~~ having an annular shape is connected to said nozzle mount by means of a plurality of nozzle supports located circumferentially between the nozzle vanes, and ~~said~~ a drive ring is provided ~~in the~~ at a side of the nozzle mount opposite to the nozzle vanes in ~~the~~ an axial direction of the turbocharger so that ~~the~~ an axial position of said drive ring is restricted by thrust bearing elements attached to said nozzle mount, ~~thus~~ the variable-nozzle mechanism being constructed as a variable-nozzle mechanism assembly ~~like a kind of cartridge which is easy to incorporate~~ which can be incorporated to or ~~remove~~ removed from the turbocharger.

3. (Currently Amended) The variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said thrust bearing elements ~~comprises~~ comprise a plurality of roller elements supported for rotation and cantilever-mounted to said nozzle mount on a plurality of circumferential locations, the roller elements supporting ~~the~~ an inner circumferential face of said drive ring so that the drive ring is ~~possible to rotate~~ rotatable and at the same time restricting the axial position of the drive ring.

4. (Currently Amended) The variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 3, wherein roller pins supporting said roller elements to the nozzle mount are fixed in ~~the~~ holes penetrating the nozzle mount.

5. (Currently Amended) The variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 3, wherein washers are provided on ~~the~~ a side of the nozzle mount facing the roller elements and roller pins

supporting said roller elements to the nozzle mount are inserted in ~~the~~ inner ~~circumference~~ circumferences of said ~~washer~~ washers, respectively.

6. (Currently Amended) The variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 3, wherein ~~said~~ roller ~~pin~~ pins for supporting the roller ~~element~~ elements to the nozzle mount ~~is~~ are each formed as a roller pin with a washer.

7. (Currently Amended) The variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said drive ring is provided in the side of the nozzle mount opposite to the nozzle vanes in the axial direction of the turbocharger so that ~~the~~ an inner circumferential face of the drive ring is supported on the nozzle mount, said thrust bearing elements are fixed to an end of the nozzle mount on the ~~said opposite~~ side ~~end face~~ of the nozzle mount opposite to the nozzle vanes at a plurality of locations, the axial position of the drive ring is restricted by one of ~~the~~ a side face of each thrust bearing element and ~~the~~ a side face of ~~said~~ a periphery part of the nozzle mount, and ~~the~~ an end face of each thrust bearing element serves as a thrust bearing face against ~~the~~ a bearing housing.

8. (Currently Amended) The variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 2, wherein each of said thrust bearing elements is a nail pin ~~composed of~~ comprising a shaft portion to be pressed into ~~the~~ a hole in the nozzle mount and a head part, ~~of which the~~ an underside face of the head part which continues to the shaft portion serving as a thrust bearing face facing ~~the~~ a side face of the drive ring, and ~~the~~ a top face of the head part serving as a thrust bearing face against ~~the~~ a bearing housing.

9. (Currently Amended) An exhaust turbocharger with a variable-nozzle mechanism in which ~~the~~ a driving force of an actuator is transmitted via a drive ring to nozzle vanes supported for rotation by a nozzle mount to vary ~~the~~ an angle of a blade of the nozzle vanes, wherein said variable-nozzle mechanism is ~~composed~~ arranged such that a nozzle plate ~~of~~ having an annular shape is connected to said nozzle mount by means of a plurality of nozzle supports located

circumferentially between the nozzle vanes, and said drive ring is provided ~~in the~~ at a side of the nozzle mount opposite to the nozzle vanes in ~~the~~ an axial direction of the turbocharger so that ~~the~~ an axial position of said drive ring is restricted by thrust bearing elements attached to said nozzle mount, ~~thus~~ the variable-nozzle mechanism being constructed as a variable-nozzle mechanism assembly ~~like a kind of cartridge~~, the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly is mounted to ~~the~~ a bearing housing by centering location with ~~the~~ an inner circumferential face of the nozzle mount to determine ~~the~~ a radial position thereof, ~~the~~ a turbine casing is mounted to the nozzle mount by centering location with ~~the~~ an outer circumferential face of the nozzle mount, and ~~the~~ an axial position of the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly is defined between the bearing housing and turbine casing by ~~their~~ respective side parts, ~~thus~~ the variable-nozzle mechanism being able to be ~~easily~~ incorporated to or removed from the turbocharger.

10. (Currently Amended) The exhaust turbocharger with a variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the turbocharger is constructed such that ~~the~~ a side of the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly is ~~possible~~ able to contact ~~the~~ bosses provided in the bearing housing to define the axial position of the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly and the nozzle plate of the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly is received in ~~the~~ an annular groove formed in the turbine casing to be supported therein.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an exhaust turbocharger with a variable-nozzle mechanism in which ~~the~~ a driving force of an actuator is transmitted via a drive ring to nozzle vanes supported for rotation by a nozzle mount to vary ~~the~~ an angle of a blade of the nozzle vanes, ~~wherein~~ the method comprising:

connecting a nozzle plate ~~of~~ having an annular shape ~~is connected~~ to ~~said~~ the nozzle mount by means of a plurality of nozzle supports located circumferentially between the nozzle vanes and ~~said~~ the drive ring is provided ~~in the~~ at a side of the nozzle mount opposite to the nozzle vanes in ~~the~~ an axial direction of the turbocharger so that ~~the~~ an axial position of ~~said~~ the drive ring is restricted by thrust bearing elements attached to ~~said~~ the nozzle mount to construct a variable-nozzle mechanism ~~assembly like a kind of cartridge~~, assembly; and thereafter

mounting the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly ~~is mounted~~ to ~~the~~ a bearing housing by centering location with ~~the~~ an inner circumferential face of the nozzle mount to determine ~~the~~ a radial position thereof, and mounting the turbine casing ~~is mounted~~ to the nozzle mount by centering location with ~~the~~ an outer circumferential face of the nozzle mount, ~~thus~~ the variable-nozzle mechanism being able to be ~~easily~~ incorporated to or removed from the turbocharger.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing an exhaust turbocharger with the variable-nozzle mechanism according to claim 11, wherein in said mounting of the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly, ~~the~~ an axial position of ~~said~~ the variable-nozzle mechanism assembly is defined between the bearing housing and turbine casing by ~~their~~ respective side parts so that the ~~same~~ variable-nozzle mechanism assembly can be ~~easily~~ mounted to and dismounted from the turbocharger.